

JOURNAL

OF THE

New York Entomological Society.

EDITED BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER.

Publishes articles relating to any class of the subkingdom Arthropoda, subject to the acceptance of the Publication Committee. Original communications in this field are solicited.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 1908.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, President C. W. Leng in the chair, with seventeen members and one visitor present.

The minutes of December 17 were read and approved.

The treasurer, Mr. Davis, read his annual report as follows:

Society's account:

Balance January 1, 1907.....	\$772.28	Postage, printing, stationery and	
Dues	168.00	general expenses.....	\$ 49.44
Interest on deposits.....	26.02		916.86
	<u>\$966.30</u>		<u>\$966.30</u>

Journal's account:

Balance January 1, 1907.....	\$200.56	Cost of printing and mailing	
Subscription and sale of		Journal (4 nos.).....	\$491.74
separates	433.29	Balance	142.11
	<u>\$633.85</u>		<u>\$633.85</u>

Total assets, $\$966.30 + \$142.11 = \$1,058.97$, total balance. Mr. Davis also reported that of the 62 members 49 received the JOURNAL in 1907 and that the JOURNAL now had 128 subscribers. He also presented the names of several members who were in arrears for membership and JOURNAL dues.

On motion the report was accepted.

The librarian, Mr. Schaeffer, read his report as follows:

“The regular exchanges have been received, duly separated and exhibited at the meetings and published as required in the proceedings of the society. Forty (40) complete volumes of the JOURNAL, 26 single numbers and 5 author's extras, includ-

ing in the latter a copy of Neumoegen and Dyar's *Bombyces*, have been sent out during the past year. All of these are mostly sales; a few single numbers have been sent to subscribers who for some reason did not receive their regular copy. The remaining unbound volumes of the *JOURNAL* (Vols. VII-XIV) in the society's library will soon be bound as authorized by the society."

On motion the report was accepted.

Professor Wheeler, chairman of the executive committee, reported that at a recent meeting of the committee it was thought best to refer the matter of arranging for lectures in coöperation with the New York Academy of Sciences to a special committee of five who should be appointed by the President and to coöperate with a similar committee from the Brooklyn Entomological Society.

Also that the secretary be authorized and requested to forward to the Curator of Entomology, Mr. Beutenmüller, the thanks of the society for his courtesy in opening the cabinet of insects for the inspection of members on meeting nights of the society.

Also that the secretary be authorized to notify members who are in arrears that if their dues are not received in one month's time their names shall be dropped from the roll of the society.

Mr. Groth's motion was carried that the secretary give 30 days' notice by letter to delinquent members.

Later Professor Wheeler added to the report of the executive committee that the secretary be requested to insert a few lines in the next Bulletin of the Academy of Natural Science calling the attention of the members to the fact that the insect collection at the Museum would be open for inspection on each meeting night of the society.

Dr. Love, chairman of the publication committee, reported "that during the year of 1907 as no matter has arisen calling for action by the committee and as the membership of that committee is somewhat scattered no meetings were held. Under the able editorship of Dr. Harrison G. Dyar the *JOURNAL* of the society has completed its fifteenth volume, with 267 pages and 2 plates. The Editor reports that the volume contained 47 leading articles by 24 authors, with a complete index of generic and specific names. The headings indicating Class and Order treated of have been continued. Separates have been given to all authors. These were cut from extra sheets printed for that purpose, as in no case did an author request specially printed separates.

The total cost of the volume was \$411.94.

Dr. Love presented Dr. Dyar's resignation as editor of the *JOURNAL*. This was accepted on motion.

The following resolution offered by Dr. Love was unanimously adopted:

"The New York Entomological Society wishes to express to Dr. Harrison G. Dyar its high appreciation and warmest thanks for the very able services he has rendered the society in the conduct of its *JOURNAL* during the several years of his editorship."

Mr. Harris of the auditing committee reported that the committee had carefully examined the books and accounts of the treasurer for the year 1907 and found that all money received had been accounted for and that the balances reported are on deposit in the Harlem Savings Bank and New York Produce Exchange Bank; moreover that all disbursements have been authorized, are proper and reasonable and are vouched for by receipts filed with the accounts.

The committee wished to commend the watchfulness and economy of the treasurer, and congratulate the society upon possessing the services of so conscientious and faithful an officer.

On motion the report was accepted.

As Mr. Joutel, chairman of the nominating committee, was absent, Mr. Harris presented the nominations of the committee as follows :

President. — C. W. Leng.

Vice-President. — E. B. Southwick.

Treasurer. — W. T. Davis.

Recording and Corresponding Secretary. — H. G. Barber.

Librarian. — C. Schaeffer.

Executive Committee. — W. M. Wheeler, G. P. Engelhardt, C. F. Groth, F. E. Watson and G. Beyer.

Publication Committee. — E. G. Love, E. P. Felt, C. Schaeffer and W. M. Wheeler.

Delegate to Council of Academy of Sciences. — C. H. Roberts.

On motion of Dr. Love the by-laws were suspended and the secretary instructed to cast one ballot for the nominated officers.

The president appointed the following standing committee :

Auditing Committee ; E. D. Harris, E. L. Dickerson and E. B. Southwick.

Field Committee : W. T. Davis and Mr. Dow.

The president also appointed the lecture committee of five to coöperate with the Brooklyn Entomological Society as follows :

Prof. W. M. Wheeler, Prof. Raymond C. Osburn, E. L. Dickerson, E. D. Harris and Dr. E. G. Love.

The secretary presented the resignation as members of Dr. Harrison G. Dyar and Dr. Frank W. Holms.

On motion of Mr. Schaeffer their resignations were accepted with regret.

As this finished the completion of the business before the meeting the reading of scientific papers and discussion was taken up.

Mr. Geo. P. Engelhardt spoke of his collecting experience at Lakehurst, N. J., during the past season, illustrating the subject with photographs and various interesting species of insects. Lakehurst was visited in August, September and October, in the company of Mr. Davis and Professor Wheeler on the last occasion. General collecting both by daylight and at night was very satisfactory, little less than one thousand insects having been taken. Much time was spent in attempts to determine species of Cicadidæ, Gryllidæ and Locustidæ by their sound characters. Several species which show but slight structural differences could be easily distinguished by this means. A number of Cicadidæ including several species were obtained through the agency of the cicada-killer wasps (*Sphecius speciosus*). By watching the wasps flying among the pine boughs hunting for their prey the presence of the cicada could be detected. When captured by the wasp the cicada would receive a paralyzing sting and it would usually drop to the ground. In sugaring both plain molasses and the same with a few drops of fusel-oil added proved effective. The use of the fusel-oil mixture can be recommended as retaining its odor longer and remaining attractive even after three or four days without fresh application. Moths come to the bait in large numbers but rather few in species. A small acetylene lamp was used to good advantage at night.

Among the specimens exhibited, Mr. Engelhardt pointed out *Memythrus polistiformis*, a Sesiid moth known as the grape-root borer, as new to the New Jersey list of insects. Several of these moths were captured in an abandoned vineyard.

A report on the investigation of colonies of slave-making and fungus-raising ants by Professor Wheeler proved a source of much information and interest.

Mr. Barber exhibited a collection of Hemiptera collected by Prof. E. B. Wilson on his recent trip to the southwestern United States. Some remarks were made concerning some of the more unusual forms. Professor Wilson had added to the fauna of the United States *Milyas spinicollis* Champ. which hitherto has been known only from Mexico.

Society adjourned.

MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 1908.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, President C. W. Leng in the chair, with twenty-two members and four visitors present.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The librarian, Mr. Schaeffer, reported the receipt of the following exchanges: *Zeitschrift f. Wissenschaftliche Insekten-biologie*, Vol. III, Nos. 7, 8 and 9.

The New Jersey Salt Marsh and its Improvement. N. J. Agri. Exp. Station Bull., No. 207.

Horæ Societatis Entomologicæ Rossicæ, Vol. XXXVIII, Nos. 1 and 2.

Verhandlungen d. K. K. Zool. Bot. Gesell., Wien, Vol. LVII, No. 9.

Museum of Brooklyn Inst. of Arts and Sciences Bull., Vol. I, No. II.

Trans. Texas Acad. for 1906.

Tijdschrift voor Entomologie, Vol. I, No. 4.

Dr. Love, of the publication committee, announced that Professor Wheeler had consented to assume the editorship of the JOURNAL.

Dr. Dow proposed as an active member Mr. Frederick M. Schott, 854 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn.

On motion of Mr. Schaeffer the by-laws were suspended. On motion of Mr. Roberts the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the election of Mr. Schott.

Mr. Leng requested Mr. Southwick to take the chair while he delivered his remarks concerning the Cicindelidæ.

Mr. Leng compared his Revision published in 1902 in which 90 species and 59 varieties were described with the Systematic Index published by Dr. Walther Horn in 1905, in which 66 of the same forms were treated as species, the remainder as subspecies, aberrations, varieties or synonyms. Mr. Leng stated that the 15 years which Dr. Horn had given to the study of the family warranted an impression that his conclusions must be substantially correct, but a possibility remained that some alteration might still be necessary. Mr. Leng exhibited the described varieties of *Cicindela longilabris* and *Cicindela tranquebarica* and claimed that the difference between the specimens shown did not support Horn's conclusion that *laurentii* Schaupp was a synonym of *C. longilabris* or that *C. obliquata* Kirby was a synonym of *C. tranquebarica*. Mr. Leng spoke of the distribution of these varieties as well as of the difference in their color and markings and maintained that each of these names represented a well-defined and distinct geographical race. He also questioned the advisability of using the terms "subspecies," "aberration" and "variety" in place of

the general term "variety," and after explaining Walther Horn's endeavor by using them to make the list reflect more accurately the actual relationship between the insects, submitted the question to the society.

In discussing the question several spoke particularly against using the term "aberration" as it was a perversion of the usual meaning of the term. It seemed to be the general opinion that though Dr. Horn's scheme was good, he had been too radical in the use of terms, and that relationship could be accurately shown by using the terms "species" and "varieties."

Mr. Beutenmüller exhibited a collection of Mexican and Central American Coleoptera and made the following remarks concerning the collection: Through the kindness and generosity of F. du Cane Godman, Esq., the well-known English scientist and editor of the famous work entitled *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, the Museum recently received as a donation an extremely valuable collection of beetles from Mexico and Central America.

This collection is of unusual scientific importance, it being a part of the material upon which the volumes of this publication on the Coleoptera were based. In it there are upward of 4,000 specimens representing 1,679 species, many of which were described as new in the *Biologia* by Messrs. Sharp, Bates, Champion, Gorham, Baly, Jacoby, and other well-known specialists in Coleoptera. The authoritative identifications of the species in this collection make it of especial value to students and it will be of much assistance in the labeling of a large quantity of hitherto unidentified material in possession of the Museum and in private collections.

Mr. Beyer gave some interesting notes on *Oncideres quercus* of which an abstract is not produced as the remarks are published in the JOURNAL.

As Mr. Bischoff was absent the reading of his paper was postponed.

Mr. Southwick exhibited a paper on the Mosquitos of Para, Brazil.

Mr. Schaeffer exhibited the first minute-book of the society, covering the years June 29, 1892, to December 18, 1900.

Mr. Davis exhibited the larval and adult fly of *Microdon tristis* bred from larvae taken at Newfoundland, N. J., in nests of *Formica schaufussi*.

Mr. Leng spoke of the death of Mr. August Luetgens who, though not a member of the society, was known to most of the members.

Society adjourned.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1908.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History. President Leng in the chair and fourteen members in attendance.

The librarian, Mr. Schaeffer, reported the receipt of the following exchanges:

The Dragonflies of Burma and Lower Siam, II, by E. B. Williamson.

Entomologisk Tidskrift, Vol. XXVIII, 1907.

The Insect World, Vol. XI, No. 2.

Notes on Brephidæ by John B. Smith.

New Species of Noctuidæ for 1907, Nos. 1 and 2, by John B. Smith.

Notes on the Species of Amathese Hon. by John B. Smith.

Dr. Wheeler, chairman of the special lecture committee, stated that Dr. Howard had consented to lecture at the Museum on the evening of February 18.

A committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions recognizing the valuable

services of the late Mr. Jessup. The president appointed on this committee Mr. Southwick, Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Osburn.

The resignation of Mr. Morgan Hebbard was read and accepted.

The first paper of the evening was that of Mr. Roberts who gave some "Notes on the Species of *Laccophilus*." In studying this genus Mr. Roberts said he had found some difficulty in following Dr. Sharp, and as an illustration he read from Dr. Sharp's work on Dytiscidæ several passages commenting on the structures of the group, such as the prosternal process and coxal file. Some of the species very closely resembled each other and the description of *L. maculosus* as given by Dr. Sharp might apply to *maculosus* or *decipiens*. Among other things, Dr. Sharp suppresses Say's *proximus* but in this he is in error as he apparently failed to recognize the species. Upon carefully studying the group, Mr. Roberts found that this species, as well as the others, could be recognized by the coxal file. This character was recognized only in the males and as yet no character had been found by which the females might be separated. *L. proximus* of Say is a commonly recognized form and the description fits Aubé's *americanus* which is not found in our collections. Upon carefully comparing a specimen of *americanus* from the Antilles, Mr. Roberts found that the two species were identical and hence the latter species would become a synonym. In his collection all were represented save *pumilio*, the type of which was in the LeConte collection and came from Enterprise, Florida.

Dr. Wheeler asked in regard to the use of the coxal file as a stridulating organ and Mr. Roberts said it would be very difficult to determine as it was such a minute structure.

Mr. Leng asked in what other groups good characters in the males could be found while the females were difficult to determine. Dr. Wheeler stated that this was the case in the Dolichopodidæ among Diptera. Mr. Davis cited the species *Diplax obtrusa* and *Diplax rubicundula* in which the females were similar. Dr. Osburn said that Mr. Walker, of Toronto, was studying *Æschna constricta* and found that three distinct species were included under that name. He also stated that in the Syrphidæ the females of some species could not be referred even to the genus while the males were readily determinable. In the Coleoptera Mr. Schaeffer cited *Copris carolina* and *colonus*, the females of which were similar while the males could be separated by the characteristic tubercles. He also mentioned Professor Smith's work on *Lachnosterna* where he had made use of the genitalia for separating the species.

The second paper of the evening was by Mr. Schaeffer who gave "Notes on Some Coleoptera." He first discussed the various species of the genus *Oncideres* and said that the apparent variety of the insects he believed was due to the fact that they emerged late in the season when little collecting was done and that they clung very tightly to the twigs when disturbed so that in beating, unless they fell into the umbrella at the first stroke, they would not be apt to be taken. The first year that he was in Texas he had not captured any specimens of *O. pustulatus* but had found many branches infested with the larvæ under acacia trees, and from these he had obtained a number of the adult insects. Infested branches could be recognized by the stridulating of the larvæ within them. *Oncideres texanus*, however, was apparently rare as only a few infested branches could be found. The following species and their work were exhibited: *Oncideres angulata* and girdling on hickory, *O. pustulata*

and work of larvæ in *Acacia fornesiana*, *O. texanus* and work in *Acacia flexicaulis* and *O. quercus* and work in black oak. He also commented on the collection of beetles taken in Mexico for the "Biologia" and recently presented to the American Museum of Natural History. These, he believed, would be of little value for comparing with southern Texas or Arizona material as the latter was similar to that of northern Mexico, where very little collecting for the Biologia had been done. In connection with this he exhibited some Arizona and southern Texas Cerambycidae and some of the Biologia material to show the difference between them.

Dr. Wheeler exhibited a lantern slide of butterflies recently made in the Museum by the Lumière color process.

Dr. Zabriskie said that Dr. Stebbins, of the New York Microscopical Society, had been working along the same line and had obtained some very good results and so far as the slides had been tested in the lantern the heat had not appeared to injure the colors.

Mr. Davis stated that recently some ants of the species *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* had been found in his room and had come from an oak log placed there. Two of these were placed in a bottle with a turtle, *Kinosternon pennsylvanicum*, and had attacked it and had bitten so hard that the heads remained attached to the turtle's neck after the bodies had been removed. The turtle with attached insects was exhibited. This habit is made use of in South America where, Dr. Wheeler stated, a certain species is allowed to bite and so bind together a cut or similar wound. The bodies can then be cut off and the heads will remain attached until removed, thus holding the wound together until it heals.

Society adjourned.

H. G. BARBER,
Secretary.